



US Army Corps  
of Engineers

# Upper Mississippi River - Illinois Waterway System Navigation Study

UMR-IWW System Navigation Study Newsletter

July 1996

Vol. 4 No. 1

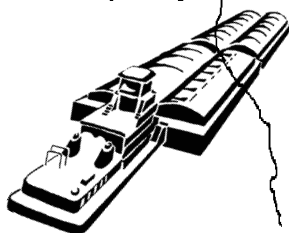


Minnesota  
Iowa



Wisconsin  
Illinois

Missouri



## Open Houses Held

In November and December 1995, a series of five open houses was held throughout the study area (Bloomington, MN; Prairie du Chien, WI; Bettendorf, IA; Peoria, IL; and St. Louis, MO). The purpose of the open houses was to inform the public of the progress of the study regarding those measures, both small- and large-scale, that have been considered and eliminated to-date and to give the public an opportunity to discuss, comment, and provide additional information on the measures.

Corps of Engineers representatives from each of the study disciplines were on-hand to provide information and answer questions. Attendees viewed an animated opening presentation which briefly discussed the study's background and the format of the open houses; then they had the opportunity to visit the study management and plan formulation, economics, engineering, environmental, and public involvement work group areas. Each area had large display boards exhibiting information on the study's progress. Handouts to complement the displays were available.

In the past newsletters we covered many of the engineering studies that have been completed to date. In the October 1995 newsletter we presented the findings from the small- and large-scale studies. This study information was presented in the October newsletter to help better inform the public for our open houses.

The study management work group displayed information on the steps of the plan formulation process and the phases of a Corps of Engineers project.

The Economics work group displayed the tasks involved in formulating the National

Economic Development (NED) plan, the Regional Economic Development (RED) plan, and the development of traffic forecasts.

The environmental work group displayed the direct effect studies, the numerical and physical modeling, data collection and management, site-specific impact assessment, and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements.

Historic properties work group displayed current studies, including construction site evaluations and system wide evaluations.

The Public involvement work group provided a list of available documents, past newsletters, and a comment sheet.

## Profile of Open Houses

To obtain demographic information and to assess the effectiveness of the open house format, each attendee was given a comment sheet to fill out.

Four hundred and ninety-five people, or 81 percent, returned the forms and 301 people provided written comments. The following paragraphs discuss the information provided on the comment sheets.

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a. A total of 610 people attended the five meetings: 111 (18%) in Bloomington, MN; 157 (26%) in Prairie du Chien, WI; 176 (29%) in Bettendorf, IA; 46 (8%) in Peoria, IL; and 120 (20%) in St. Louis, MO.

b. About 70 percent of those attending had not been to a previous Navigation Study meeting. Twenty-three percent had attended a November 1994 meeting, and 10 percent attended one of the first meetings in October/November 1993. Four percent did not respond. The totals equal more than 100 percent because more than one answer was accepted.

c. Meeting locations proved to be convenient for over half (56 percent) of the attendees who drove under 30 miles to attend an open house. Another 26 percent traveled between 30 to 70 miles, and 17 percent traveled more than 70 miles to participate in an open house. This information could also mean that learning about the Navigation Study progress was important to the public since many people traveled a significant distance to attend the open houses.

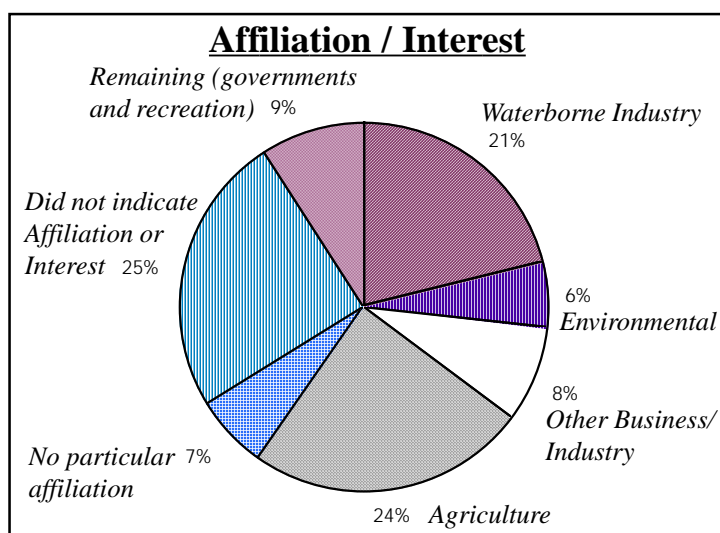
d. Ninety-five percent said they had a chance to talk to a study team member on a one-to-one basis, 87 percent of the respondents said the format was conducive to sharing their views with a team member, 82 percent thought their questions were answered, and 6 percent said their questions were not answered to their satisfaction. Eighty-one percent thought the displays provided information necessary to learn about the study. Six percent indicated that they would have preferred a different meeting format that would have allowed for all comments and questions to be heard by the entire audience.

e. One hundred and thirty-two participants spent more than one hour observing and talking to study managers, while 115 participants spent between 45-60 minutes at an open house. One hundred and twenty-three participants spent between 31-44 minutes at an open house, 89 spent between 16-30 minutes, and three people spent less than 15 minutes participating in an open house. Thirty-three people did not answer.

f. All comments received at the open houses were given to the study's technical managers for their use when making further study decisions. The study-related questions and comments are considered as part of the overall study process. A majority of the respondents expressed favorable comments for the Navigation Study. A small contingent of the respondents expressed unfavorable comments about the Navigation Study or the possibility of any improvements to the waterway system. Some did not express a position.

g. Twenty-four percent of the respondents stressed the economic benefit and the dependence of many industries on river transportation. Twelve percent expressed concerns about possible environmental damage from the existing system or any future increases in navigation traffic. Four percent indicated that recreation is important. Three percent indicated that study costs are of concern.

h. Attendees were given the option of listing an affiliation or interest. Responses were divided into categories (which coincide with the categories listed on the newsletter comment sheet).



A more detailed list of general observations compiled from the comment sheets, the complete list of all written comments submitted during the open houses, and all written comments submitted after the open houses are available in an After Action Report. To obtain a copy, see the enclosed insert on [List of Available Documents](#).

## Study Faces Budget Challenges

The Navigation Study has been challenged and has been impacted by the Federal budget of 1996. Unlike many Federal programs, the Navigation Study was fortunate to have its funding appropriation signed into law during November 1995. However, the Navigation Study suffered a reduction in fiscal year 1996 funding because only half of its required budget was included in that law. Because the Navigation Study remains among the region's top priorities, internal Corps reprogramming and special Congressional action made additional funds available to the study. As a result, the Navigation Study was able to execute most of its fiscal year 1996 program. Since not all

of the required funds were provided, one newsletter was canceled and several other activities had to be rescheduled to next year.

One common question has been: Will all work originally included in the study be completed? In short, the answer is yes. While we continue to search for more efficient ways of accomplishing the work, it is our intention to complete the studies described in the Initial Project Management Plan (IPMP) which was last modified to include public input resulting from the 'scoping' phase of the study.

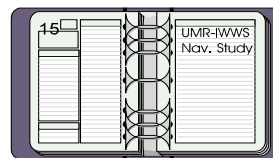
## In Brief . . .

The site-specific habitat assessment at the lock and dam sites is scheduled to begin in July. The data collected will be used in habitat models to assess impacts of potential alternative construction features. The effort is being conducted with the National Biological Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), and state resource agencies.

The field crews for larval and adult fish sampling began their field data collection in March on both the Upper Mississippi River and Illinois Waterway. In addition to this field work, lab studies of fish, mussels, and plants are also on going.

*-continued on page 4-*

## UPCOMING MEETINGS



### Navigation Environmental Coordination Committee

-November 13, 1996 - 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Holiday Inn, Moline, IL

### Economics Coordination Committee

- August 13, 1996 - noon to 3:00 p.m.

Days Inn, La Crosse, WI

### Governors' Liaison Committee

- August 13, 1996 - 3:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Days Inn, La Crosse, WI

○ To get updated meeting information, call the toll-free telephone number, 800-USA(872)-8822. Meeting announcements will be in the Public Involvement menu.

## HELP US KEEP OUR MAILING LIST CORRECT

### IS YOUR ADDRESS CORRECT?

☐ MY ADDRESS IS WRONG, BUT I WISH TO CONTINUE RECEIVING THIS NEWSLETTER.

☐ I DO NOT WISH TO CONTINUE RECEIVING THIS NEWSLETTER.

Please check your mailing label for accuracy and make any changes on the label. Cut at the dotted line and attach the form to the inside of the enclosed sheet. Although we appreciate any comments you have, you do not have to complete the comment sheet when sending in your corrected address label. Fold the comment sheet and mail it so the post-age-paid address is showing. Please return the corrected label by August 9, 1996. Thank you.

If we do not receive a response, we will continue sending you a newsletter at the current address on our data base. ○

The contractor for the commodity forecasts has provided draft reports on grain, agricultural chemicals, and animal feeds forecasts. These drafts are the first of the commodity forecasts the study has received. In the next month additional forecast reports are expected on coal, chemicals, construction materials, iron and steel, salt, and petroleum products. The study team is in the process of reviewing this information which will be provided to the public when final.

The secondary screening of potential large and small scale measures continues to further define the costs and time savings associated with each measure. This process will bring forward the best measures for further analysis and consideration in the development of alternative plans.

## Future Newsletters

Newsletters are scheduled to be issued three times annually until the feasibility phase of the Navigation Study is complete. Due to budget set backs this year, we are only releasing two issues. Starting in October 1996 (the beginning of fiscal year 1997) we will return to our normal schedule of newsletters. The next issue is scheduled to be released in November 1996.

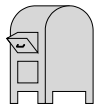
## QUESTIONS?

○ for general study information, call Dave Tipple, study manager, at 309-794-5399 or write to the address below, ATTN: CENCR-PD-W.

○ or for information on Public Involvement meetings, call the toll-free telephone number, 800-USA(872)-8822. Meeting announcements will be in the Public Involvement menu. Or call Kevin Bluhm, public involvement coordinator, at 612-290-5247, or write to the address below, ATTN: CENCR-PD-C/Bluhm.

○ if you want to be added to the mailing list for future newsletters, study updates, and meeting announcements, write to the address below, ATTN:CENCR-PD-C or call the toll-free telephone number and leave your information in the public involvement menu.

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